

PRESS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Housing Loan Specialists to Hold Office Hours at Greenfield Housing Authority

AMHERST, MA – USDA Rural Development will hold **special office hours at the Greenfield Housing Authority on Thursday, November 17th from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.**

USDA Rural Development, an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture, will be holding the special office hours in Greenfield in order to promote two of its programs which encourage homeownership and enable existing rural homeowners to repair, renovate, or provide handicap accessibility to their homes. Interested individuals will have a chance to speak to a USDA Rural Development Loan Specialist about their eligibility for USDA Housing Programs and complete a housing application if they wish.

The special USDA Rural Development office hours will continue to be held from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month through the next several months. Interested families and individuals need not make an appointment as they are on a first-come, first-served basis. The Greenfield Housing Authority is located at 1 Elm Terrace in Greenfield.

Through USDA Rural Development's Home Improvement Loan and Grant Program (Section 504), funds may be made available, for example, to repair a leaking roof; replace a wood stove with central heating; or to construct a front-door ramp for someone using a wheelchair. Low income families and individuals can receive loans at a 1% interest rate directly from USDA Rural Development and homeowners that are 62 years of age and older are eligible for home improvement grants which do not have to be repaid. While grant funds are generally limited, loan funds are readily available.

In addition to the Home Improvement Program, USDA Rural Development has funds available for its home loan program (Section 502) for moderate to very low income rural homebuyers. This program provides individuals and families the opportunity to purchase or build a home with no-down-payment and financing of up to 100%.

For more information about USDA Rural Development office hours at the Greenfield Housing Authority, please call USDA Rural Development at: (413) 253-4314 or the Greenfield Housing Authority at: (413) 774-2932.

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